PATENT 12423-3

I CLAIM:

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- 1. A non-virulent, recA defective mutant of Porphyromonas gingivalis.
- 2. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* according to claim 1.
- 3. A method of decreasing the growth rate or reproduction rate of wild-type *Porphyromonas gingivalis* in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal at least one dose of the mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* according to claim 1.
 - 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the administration comprises injecting the mammal with the at least one dose of the non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas* gingivalis via a route selected from the group consisting of a subcutaneous route, an intravenous route and an intramuscular route.
- 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the dose administered is between about $1x10^3$ and $1x10^7$ the mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* per kg of body weight of the mammal.
- 7. A method of decreasing the growth rate or reproduction rate of *Porphyromonas* gingivalis in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal at least one dose of a non-virulent, recA defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis*.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human. accession number 202109 to the mammal.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of administering comprises injecting the mammal with the at least one dose of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas* gingivalis via a route selected from the group consisting of a subcutaneous route, an intravenous route and an intramuscular route.
- 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of administering comprises injecting the [mutant] mammal with the at least one dose of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, wherein the dose is between about a 1x10³ and 1x10⁷ bacteria per kg of body weight.